

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are pending. Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,059,385 ("Guhl") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,667,888 ("Chang"). Claims 28 and 29 are new. The applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and requests reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

Priority Claim

The Examiner noted that the certified copies of the priority documents had not been received and did not acknowledge the priority claims. Certified copies are enclosed herewith of the following: WIPO Application No. GB02/00347, UK Application No. 0102143.5 and UK Application No. 0118896. The applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to acknowledge the priority claim.

Claims 1-29

Claim 1 recites a desk adapted for connection to a second desk as part of a network of desks. The desk includes a desktop comprising a plurality of sides, a bottom-face, and a top face and a chassis positioned substantially beneath the desktop comprising one or more cassettes, wherein at least one cassette includes one or more electronic components. The desk further includes a power distribution system providing power to at least one cassette and an electronic connection system. The power distribution system is positioned substantially beneath the desktop, extending approximately from a first side of the desktop to a second side of the desktop, and configured to provide power to at least one adjacent desk or bridge unit. The electronic connection system provides an electronic connection from the one or more electronic components to an electronic component located in a second desk, and is positioned substantially beneath the desktop and extending approximately from a first side of the desktop to a second side of the desktop.

The applicant respectfully submits that Guhl does not disclose a desk adapted for connection to a second desk as part of a network of desks. Guhl discloses a single computer desk system comprising a desk 40 accommodating a computer module 1 within its chassis. The Examiner has misconstrued the disclosure of Guhl. It should be noted that Guhl's reference